

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Approval of a New Minor in Global Health Studies,  
University of Iowa

**Date:** June 5, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

Approve a proposed new minor in Global Health Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Iowa.

**Executive Summary:**

The College of Liberal Arts is requesting that a new minor in Global Health Studies be established. The fifteen (15) credit hour program, to be administered by the Office of International Programs, builds upon the existing disciplinary offerings in the College of Liberal Arts and the new College of Public Health, and the success of the existing Certificate in Global Health program. The new minor would be a model for interdisciplinary and international studies.

As this proposed minor illustrates, the general purpose of minors is to provide an opportunity for students to broaden their education while pursuing a particular major. Through the concentration of several courses and/or experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of a field or area of interest. In certain fields of study where employment prospects are limited, minors are essential for students.

The purpose of the new minor is to offer a variety of research opportunities for undergraduates and to provide a means for students to explore careers in health related fields. While three new courses are proposed for the minor, there are no substantive costs associated with the new minor as current faculty would teach them. Any marginal costs have already been negotiated in the context of the renewal grant proposal for the Department of Education's National Resource Center.

The new minor is consistent with the goals of the College of Liberal Arts' strategic plan, specifically Goal IV, "initiatives that support international and interdisciplinary education." It is also consistent with the University's strategic plan to encourage international study and the Board of Regents' Key Result Area 3.0, Diversity.

### **Background:**

The University of Iowa currently has a Global Health Studies Program. The certificate offered through this program requires 25 semester hours of core and elective courses. The proposed minor would require 15 semester hours in designated Global Health courses, many of which would be cross-listed in traditional courses such as history, anthropology, and geography.

The University projects that the minor will attract 25-40 students per course and will hold more appeal than the certificate. The minor, according to the proposal, "will be a pathway into the health professions," as well as an interdisciplinary bridge to numerous professional tracks.

Attachment A, pages 4-7, contains the Program Review Questions.

### **Analysis:**

Board of Regent Procedural Guide (Section 6.05, pages VI-15 to VI-18) requires proposals for new programs to address the criteria of need, duplication, quality, and costs.

Relative to need, the University's rationale is that the curriculum of the new minor would provide international overviews of processes and problems associated with the maintenance and provision of health. Students will be able to explore health issues and disease treatment strategies in diverse social, political, cultural, and economic settings. The program would offer study abroad opportunities, as well as numerous interdisciplinary opportunities to do research, thus supporting Goal 1B of the College of Liberal Arts' strategic plan, "develop students' understanding of and appreciation for the processes of research, scholarship, and artistic creation."

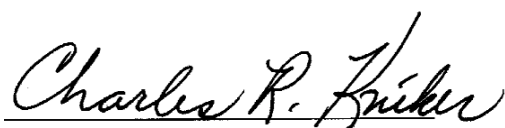
The SUI proposal includes enrollment statistics from existing Global Health related courses. The University anticipates that the new minor would, in time, develop three new courses: (1) Tobacco, Politics, and Health; (2) Disease Diffusion and Preventive Health Practices; and (3) Social Welfare: A World View. It is anticipated that each of these would have 25-40 students.

The proposal also included a brief discussion on employment opportunities. For post-graduate studies, a student with this minor could consider medical anthropology or medical sociology. The College of Public Health has indicated that this minor would be a suitable preparation for the Master's degree in Public Health. Students with this minor would find it an advantage in fields such as social work, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, nursing, and education. These fields are witnessing increased involvement with refugees, immigrants, and migrant adults and their families.

The criteria of quality is addressed through the listing of the courses which students will take. The proposal lists a large number of courses which students can take. Additional courses will now be available. The faculty teaching these courses and the proposed new courses are regular university faculty.

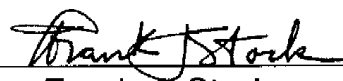
The University indicates that there are no new costs associated with the new minor, which would begin in Fall of 2001. The University points out that virtually all of the proposed core courses are now available in a variety of disciplines. The faculty will teach these courses as part of their regular loads. Those who will be developing the new courses will be compensated through summer salary. General expenses for new and revised course materials are covered, to some degree, through external resources (in this case, through a Department of Education grant which funds the National Resource Center in International Studies). Any marginal increases in the budget to handle the new minor have been negotiated in the context of the renewal grant for the National Resource Center.

The Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination and the Board Office recommend approval.



Charles R. Kniker

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Frank J. Stork

## *Program Review Questions*

### 1. Need:

- a) *How will this proposed program further the educational and curriculum needs of students and of units in the college or university?*

The Global Health minor will fulfil many of the College of Liberal Arts' broad goals in education. The University of Iowa has developed an ambitious strategic plan underlining the importance of interdisciplinary thinking and international competency for its students. For example, Goal IV of the CLA Strategic Plan specifies the "Design [of] initiatives that support international and interdisciplinary education." The existing Global Health Studies Program, unique both in content and educational format, has already demonstrated through its Certificate Program the value of Global Health for strengthening interdisciplinary and international research and education in the University. Courses in the minor curriculum will provide overviews of processes and problems associated with the maintenance and provision of health within diverse settings and among a variety of populations. Thus, the program allows for study in social, political, cultural and economic settings that differ from our own. Students will learn to appreciate the diversity that marks today's world and learn to ask questions about why and how people make decisions. They will explore the foundations of health and disease as they evolved in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America – as well as in the North America. Thus, the Global Health minor program provides a venue for course offerings in the social sciences and humanities with an international health context.

The cross-disciplinary nature of the minor provides a framework through which students are introduced to faculty from many different departments and colleges. Global health courses will interface with courses offered by the established departments. This leads to another important component of the program – the opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in supervised research projects with faculty from different disciplines and offering different approaches to the common theme of global health studies. There will be opportunities within this mechanism to gain practical experience by studying abroad. This is an important aspect of the program at a time that the University is trying to provide more meaningful scholarly contact between undergraduates and faculty. For example, Goal 1B of the CLA Strategic Plan specifies the need to "Develop students' understanding of and appreciation for the processes of research, scholarship and artistic creation."

Finally, a minor in Global Health will offer a further pathway for undergraduates seeking careers or graduate programs in the international health sector, including access to the new MPH courses in the College of Public Health. It represents an alternative to the traditional pre-professional courses (such as pre-med) and is likely to appeal to a greater number of undergraduates than does a certificate. Thus, more undergraduates will select this pathway into the health professions than has been the case with the GHSP Certificate, and this will undoubtedly serve to increase enrollments in Liberal Arts courses.

### *Relationship to Programs at Other Institutions*

- 2a. *What programs in this field are available in other colleges and universities in Iowa?*

An extensive search of the catalogues of all four-year degree granting institutions in Iowa revealed international health related undergraduate programs only at the following institutions:

Iowa State University (ISU) has a Department of Health and Human Performance (<http://www.educ.iastate.edu/hhp/homepage.htm>). The chair is Professor Jerry Thomas, Ed.D, but they do not have a minor or a major degree program in Global Health. Their largest degree program is a B.S. in Exercise and Sport Science. This major does not appear to have components related to international or global health. They also offer a Community Health major and this does have options in community and public health. One ISU course that does appear to have significant international and interdisciplinary content is Global Change (<http://www.iitap.iastate.edu/gcp/>); the major focus of this course is environment and climate, but there is a section on global change and human health. The teachers of this course are Dr. Eugene S. Takle and Michael R. Taber.

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) has a School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services within its College of Education (<http://www.uni.edu/coe/home/depart.html>). The School offers a "Global Health Certificate" for 16 hours of course work, and a "Global Health Concentration" is offered for 10 hours. Several courses offered through this program are directly relevant to the proposed UI minor in Global Health and we have explored inter-institutional cooperation (see below under section 2. b.)

Grinnell College offers an Environmental Studies concentration (<http://www.grinnell.edu/EnvironmentalStudies/>). The perspective of the program is "global" and it includes courses on Human Evolution and Human Ecology and Adaptation, but no courses with a significant health focus. Grinnell also has a concentration in Global Development Studies, but this also lacks a health focus.

*2b. With what representatives of these programs have we consulted?*

We have consulted with faculty and administrators at UNI and at Grinnell College and have visited both institutions. Our main contacts at UNI are Dr. Michele Yehieli, Director of their Global Health Corps, and Susan Koch, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. They were both enthusiastic about inter-institutional cooperation in the area of shared courses and joint development of study abroad sites. We identified three UNI courses that might be offered collaboratively by UNI and UI faculty as part of our proposed minor in Global Health (these are described further in 2e). A letter of support from Vice President Koch is attached.

At Grinnell College our contact person is Helen Scott, Associate Dean of the College. Although Grinnell is not interested in curriculum development in the area of global health, they are planning to cooperate with us in the development of study abroad and internship sites. They are also interested in developing joint symposia and conferences on interdisciplinary and international topics, including global health. We attach a letter from President Russel Osgood of Grinnell College outlining specific commitments to enhance cooperation between our institutions.

*2c. How is the proposed minor in Global Health similar to or different from the programs mentioned above?*

None of the institutions mentioned above offers a minor in Global Health—this is clearly an innovation at the undergraduate level and does not yet exist at any college or university in Iowa.

*2d. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available?*

Several components of the proposed program can be developed in co-operation with UNI, who are eager to strengthen their offerings in Global Health. We have already discussed the possibility of sharing several courses between their program in International Health and the proposed minor program.

Faculty and administrators at Grinnell and UNI have welcomed the idea of establishing shared study abroad sites that would lend themselves to a global health focus but would not exclude students in other disciplines. This would supplement the International Health and Global Health Corps programs at UNI and the concentrations in Environmental Studies and Global Development Studies at Grinnell College.

*2e. Has the possibility of some kind of inter-institutional program or other cooperative effort been explored? What are the results of this study?*

As mentioned above, we have possibilities for both inter-institutional programs and other cooperative efforts. UNI is interested in developing three of the courses in their Global Health Certificate as 'courses in common.' One of these, International Health, is already jointly taught with a member of our faculty. The three courses are;

1. Department of Health Promotion: 410:138(g). International Health --2 hrs. Exploration of widely different disease patterns found between developed and developing countries, and investigates the complex factors that contribute to poor community health status. Prerequisite: junior standing.
2. Department of Anthropology : 990:158(g). Cross-Cultural Perspective on Mental Illness -- 3 hrs. Cross-cultural approach to identification and treatment of mental disorders Prerequisites: 980:058 or 990:011; junior standing.
3. Department of Anthropology: 990:168(g) Culture, Disease, and Healing -- 3 hrs. Cross-cultural consideration of cultural, biological and ecological factors in disease and health; disease and evolution, folk healers and non-Western medical systems and health care systems in the U.S. Prerequisites: 980:058 or 990:011; junior standing.

The idea of sharing courses may be appealing to the Regents in terms of improving collaboration between Regents universities, but would not be a necessity for our minor proposal. The mechanism for sharing courses would involve using the ICN and this could involve a degree of team teaching with an instructor in the classroom at UI and also at UNI dealing with student questions and lending continuity. M. Yehieli teaches the International Health course and she has agreed to a shared course through the ICN. The instructor for the Mental Illness course (Tom Hill) has also agreed in principle to teach on the ICN for a shared course.

As mentioned above, both UNI and Grinnell College have welcomed the idea of establishing shared study abroad sites that would lend themselves to a global health focus but would not exclude students in other disciplines. Our work with UNI would probably focus on site development in Cuba; the chair our Spanish Department is also interested in this possibility. The site would be used by all students with an interest in global health, including those in the Certificate and concentration programs at the UNI and UI, and also students in the proposed minor program and in the UI College of Public Health. Grinnell College is interested in developing a shared site in Eastern Europe or Russia as well as developing joint symposia and conferences on interdisciplinary and international topics, including global health. This complements the existing "Bridging" initiative between the UI and Grinnell College.

**3. Enrollment:** Historically, the Global Health courses have enjoyed solid enrollments. We anticipate that these enrollments will remain high, particularly given the track into the College of Public Health MPH program. (See Appendix for enrollment data on existing Global Health related courses.)

*4. Please provide any available data or information on employment opportunities available to graduates of this program in Iowa and nationally.*

Global Health Studies is inherently interdisciplinary and international in content and in application. By exposure to a variety of disciplinary perspectives, students develop both a breadth of knowledge as well as the ability to think critically. A minor in global health will provide students with the background and intellectual problem solving skills to approach further education or employment in a number of related fields. Given the centrality and importance of health and disease concerns globally, and the variety of social, cultural, economic, industrial, political and environmental factors that are involved in health and disease patterns, the possibilities for employment and postgraduate studies are wide. The most obvious fields in which graduates might pursue postgraduate studies are medical anthropology and medical sociology. Graduates would also be well equipped to pursue professional education in Medicine and Dentistry. The new College of Public Health has indicated that it would consider the Global Health minor a suitable preparation for the Master Degree in Public Health. Other professions that are increasingly concerned with global health issues include environmental engineering, law, pharmacy, journalism and business. Anyone entering these fields will benefit from exposure to the issues addressed in the global health minor.

Less obvious fields where a minor in global health will give students an advantage in employment opportunities are social work, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, nursing and education, each of which is increasingly involved with the complex problems of emotional adjustment and health related needs of large populations of refugees, immigrants, and migrant adults and children in the U.S. In addition, the use of different disciplinary perspectives, teaching and research methodologies, and approaches utilized within the assorted global health studies educational offerings invites students from across the campus to participate and augment their discipline relevant pursuits.

*5. Resource Needs*

The probable marginal increases in expenditures (over the next three years) that may be necessary as result of the adoption of this program have already been negotiated in the context of the renewal grant proposal written for the Department of Education National Resource Center in International Studies. Briefly in outline form:

- a) Faculty will teach these courses as a part of their regular teaching loads. Those who will be developing new courses will be compensated through summer salary. The Director is compensated through International Programs (see spreadsheets).
- b) Graduate Assistants are being provided by both the College of Liberal Arts and through the regular Graduate College block allocation to International Programs.
- c) General Expenses for new and revised course materials are covered to some degree through external (Department of Education) resources, but also out of regular departmental budgets.
- d) Equipment – no additional needs.
- e) Library resources will be met through designated library personnel and through (small) amounts of grant money for journal acquisitions.
- f) New space will be needed in that classrooms will need to be scheduled for existing and additional courses. Faculty will use existing office space.
- g) Computer use will occur through regular ITC classrooms.
- h) Other – Additional advising support will be needed to assist students and to help faculty produce and disseminate brochures, fliers, and program requirement information.